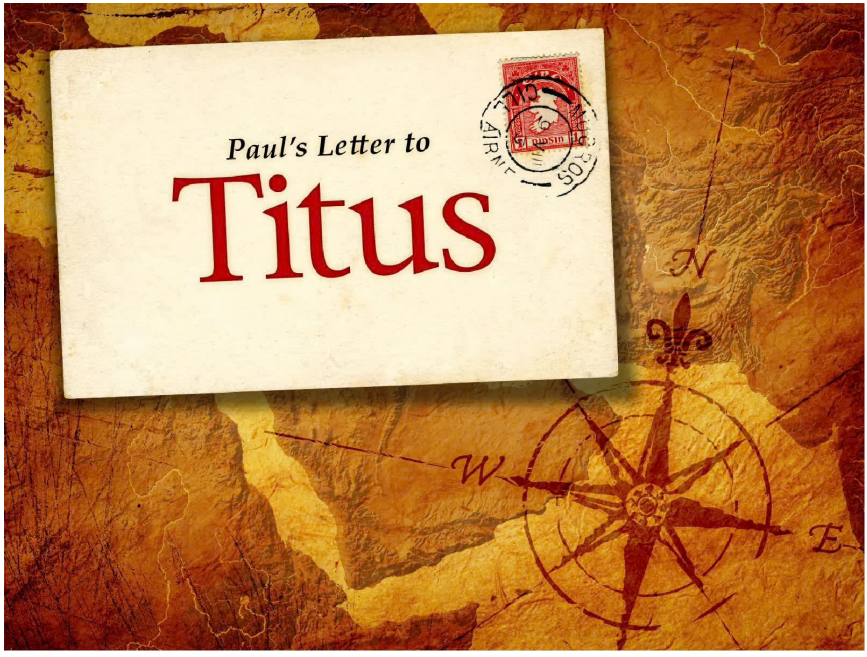
A Guided Inductive Study of Titus



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of Paul's Letter to Titus

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Welcome to Paul's Letter to Titus

Who Was Titus?
It is one of Paul's shortest letters written to his colleague in ministry. Titus is mentioned several times in the New Testament. 2 Corinthians 2:13, 7:6, 7:13, 7:14, 8:6, 8:16, 8:23, 12:18, Galatians 2:1, 2:3, and 2 Timothy 4:10. (See next page.)

Where It Was Written.
One would think you would have heard of in in the Book of Acts. But this letter was written after Paul's first imprisonment, not mentioned in Acts. Paul had recently completed a journey to Crete.

What It Is All About.
The letter addressed to Titus one of Paul's disciples and companion on his journeys who he left in Crete. Crete was a Gentile stronghold and immorality was flagrant even among believers. Paul writes to encourage godly living in the midst of a sinful culture. He addresses the problem of false teachers, and particularly the need for godly leaders.

The Theme
The theme of the letter is godliness, the need for it and the importance of it from leaders down to the youngest believers.

As you read and study this little letter pay particular attention to exhortations contained in it. Those exhortation are not just for Titus but for Titus to pass on to all believers, that includes you and me.

Other References to Titus

2 Corinthians 2:13
I had no rest in my spirit, because I found not Titus my brother: but taking my leave of them, I went from thence into Macedonia.

2 Corinthians 7:6
Nevertheless God, that comforts those that are cast down, comforted us by the coming of Titus;

2 Corinthians 7:13-14
Therefore we were comforted in your comfort: yea, and exceedingly the more joyed we for the joy of Titus, because his spirit was refreshed by you all. For if I have boasted anything to him of you, I am not ashamed; but as we spoke all things to you in truth, even so our boasting, which *I made* before Titus, is found a truth.

2 Corinthians 8:6
Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also.

2 Corinthians 8:16
But thanks *be* to God, which put the same earnest care into the heart of Titus for you.

2 Corinthians 8:23
Whether any do enquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellow-helper concerning you: or our brethren be enquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.

2 Corinthians12:18
I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? Did not we walk in the same spirit? Did not we *walk* in the same steps?

Galatians 2:1
Then fourteen years after I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, and took Titus with me also.

Galatians 2:3
But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised:

2 Timothy 4:10
For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.

Outline of Titus

Opening (1:1-4)

1 The Need for Godly Leaders (1:5-9)

2 The Problem of False Teachers 1:10-16)

3 Godly Christian Living 2:1-3:8)

4 The Problem Restated: False Teachers 3:9-11)

5 Closing Encouragement 3:12-15)

Titus 1 - Godly Leaders

Key verses to think about.

1:7-9 Godly Characteristics
For a bishop (overseers, elder) must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

1:15 Pure Mindedness
To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

Main Truth:

Elders and spiritual leaders must be above reproach.

Questions:

1 Even if you are not an elder these are godly traits you should aspire to. Which of these traits do you need to work on?

2 Are you knowledgeable enough in the word of God to teach others? Do you actively teach others? Why not?

3 Check out Hebrews 5:12-14. Are you a mature believer, or an immature believer unskillful in the word of righteousness?

Titus 2 - Godly Behavior

Key verses to think about.

2:1 Godly Behavior
But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine:

- Old men
- Older women
- Young women
- Young men

2:12-14 Godly in this Age
teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself *His* own special people, zealous for good works.

Main Truth:

God's people whatever their age are to be godly, holy, and zealous of good works.

Questions:

1 What are the characteristics of…

- Old men…?
- Older women…"
- Young women…?
- Young men …?

2 What is the common denominator?

3 What changes do you need to make in order to reach those standards?

Titus 3 - Be Like Jesus

Key verses to think about.

3:1-2 Be Christ-like
Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men.

3:5 Washing of Regeneration
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Main Truth:

The Holy Spirit has saved us and washed us, therefore we ought to be more and more like Jesus.

Questions:

1 Do you ever speak evil of anyone? Are you a critic? Are you a complainer? Are you a grumbler?

2 Are you peaceable? Or are you often angry, disagreeable, or contentious?

3 Are you gentle? Or are you harsh in your words, or demanding in your attitudes?

4 What needs to improve in you to be more like Jesus?